

time. (But I must acknowledge that, being what Kipling calls 'a time-expired man,' I work at lower pressure.)

"With the present state of affairs throughout the world the followers of Henry George, it seems to me, are the most potent force for the maintenance of civilization. Such work as you are doing is therefore of the utmost importance. I heartily wish you all success. I hope the Baltimore convention will prove the most influential of the series. If such a miracle be possible, I hope it will prove the turning point and bring on a strong and rapid advance to the plenty, peace and freedom which all good men and women desire the whole world to enjoy."

And from our old friend J. F. Colbert, former member of the Louisiana State Tax Commission, we were glad to have this greeting:

"I regret to say that I find I cannot accept the invitation, but please be assured I very much appreciate it. My duties here will hold me in the State at that time and, additionally, I am not financially able to make the trip. I have found it to be true that an honest confession is really good for the soul.

"The teachings of Henry George are soon going to be more generally studied and understood. Nations, like individuals, do not reform except through necessity. The necessity for tax reform on genuine lines will come within a few years. Nothing can stay it."

J. H. Kauffman, secretary of the Ohio Single Tax Association, said: "Success to the Council of War. May it bring peace and happiness to the earth." Prof. John Dewey sent cordial greetings. A characteristic letter from Poultney Bigelow was read, and we cannot but regret his half promise to us last summer to attend was not fulfilled. A letter from Frank G. Anderson, of Jamestown, N. Y., expressed hope for the success of the Congress. Letters were also received from Otto Cullman, Newton D. Baker, Walter S. Wright, Norman Thomas, Frank W. Garrison, Peter Witt, Hon. Edward Keating and Grace Isabel Colbron.

News From Texas

THERE is always plenty of news in Texas, but most of it is like the news from every other State. Our State treasury is in the red nearly \$4,000,000, with a fair prospect of a deficit of \$6,000,000 by the end of the fiscal year. Departmental revenues have fallen off with the decline of business. Our gross receipts, occupation and sales taxes have also fallen off. On top of this we have pending an amendment to the Constitution to be voted on in November, 1932, that will exempt from State taxes all homesteads of \$3,000 of assessed value. If adopted this will reduce revenues from ad valorem taxes variously estimated from \$5,000,000 to \$8,000,000.

Our city and school districts are bonded to the limit and face this load with empty treasury and falling revenues. With this condition, not peculiar to Texas, the Single Taxer is listened to with more consideration and respect than at any time in many years. In Texas we talk taxation because it is the language that men can understand. We go on the theory, and propagate the idea, that all productive industry, whether on the farm or in the factory or in the clearing house, must unite as against the privi-

leged land owner, and it is through taxation that the remedy for this depression must be sought.

Our Legislature in its search for more revenues last spring passed a tax of 5 cents a barrel on cement manufactured in this State. Even at the low percentage of capacity produced, that industry will have to contribute some \$400,000 this year. One of the leaders in the industry told me the tax was put over because the cement people had no friends at Austin. My reply to him and to others of the industry was that they should have been making friends of all the people these past years in tax matters; that they should join and work with all wealth producers for a tax system that would encourage industry and at the same time provide ample revenue from the economic rent of land. Many industrialists see this now, but are still too cowardly to take the stand openly.

We have a Legislative Tax Survey Committee at work. I suppose every State has had them at intervals for several years. No one knows what this one in Texas will recommend, but whatever they recommend is sure to be of little weight. You can't patch up a broken-down machine such as we now have in taxation. I was invited to appear before the committee. I was preceded in the hearing by a well-informed real estate man. He expounded the law of rent as clearly as a Georgian could, but he wanted the rent for the land holder and not for the people.

In my own statement to the committee I pointed out that because of urgent needs for more revenues there was nothing for them to do except recommend more business taxes; but that the committee would be derelict if it did not propose a substitute for the whole bad tax system in the form of a programme that would gradually bring about a land-values tax only.

WILLIAM A. BLACK.

The Schalkenbach Foundation

THE Schalkenbach Foundation is doing excellent work over a wide field. Miss Antoinette Kaufmann, the foundation's secretary, and her very competent assistant are kept busy every hour of the day. From a report of the Foundation's activities just received we extract the following:

From a gentleman who answered our advertisement in *Time*:

"Some time ago I secured from you a copy of 'Significant Paragraphs.' I did not have the opportunity to read this book until today. I would like to distribute about twelve or fifteen copies. Please send one dozen of these books now."

From a minister who received a special letter addressed to a group of ministers, and enclosing in each case a copy of the pamphlet "Moses":

"I have read 'Moses,' a lecture by Henry George, with reverent interest, and I thank you for it. I would appreciate fifty additional copies for distribution to the faculty and business staff of this institute. We have some 1,800 students in our day and evening schools and I wish every one of them might read it. Enclosed please find my check for \$1 for a copy of 'Progress and Poverty.' I possess a copy of the original edition, read and carefully marked at the time of its publication, but I should like to reread it in newer form. In my student days I resided in New York, a contemporary of Henry George, and knew something of his sufferings in the cause he so fearlessly and eloquently proclaimed."